

Message Text

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SUBJ: PCI PERSPECTIVE ON SOLZHENITSYN INTERVIEW

1. AUGUST 29 EDITION OF ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY ORGAN UNITA' CARRIES FULL, FACTUAL, FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT OF SOLZHENITSYN AP/LE MONDE INTERVIEW. IN EDITORIAL PREFACE TO SOLZHENITSYN COVERAGE, UNITA' COMMENTS THAT SOVIET WRITER'S GRAVE ASSERTIONS - PARTICULARLY HIS STATED FEARS FOR HIS OWN LIFE - COULD POSSIBLY BE CONSIDERED "ABERRANT, ABSURD" AND THE PRODUCT OF EXTREME EXASPERATION. THE "WHY" OF SOLZHENITSYN'S EXASPERATION REMAINS AN OPEN QUESTION, HOWEVER, AND UNITA' "DOES NOT FLEE" FROM INSISTING THAT SOCIALIST SOCIETY MUST GUARANTEE FULL AND FREE EXCHANGE OF CONTENDING IDEAS - PARTICULARLY IN AREAS OF ART, CULTURE, SCIENTIFIC AND INTELLECTUAL RESEARCH - IN ORDER THAT PEOPLE THEMSELVES MAY JUDGE AND CRITICIZE. IT IS AN ERROR TO ASSIGN ANTI-SOCIALIST, AND ANTI-SOVIET INTENTIONS TO EVERY CRITICAL VOICE AND EXPRESSION OF DISSENT. IN ANY EVENT, SUCH "HOSTILE POSITIONS" CAN BE MORE EFFECTIVELY COUNTERED WHEN THEY ARE COMPLETELY OUT IN OPEN. OTHERWISE, THEY PROMPT "EXASPERATED ACTION" ON ONE HAND AND "WESTERN PROPAGANDA DISTORTIONS" ON THE OTHER. EDITORIAL ALSO TAKES SWIPE AT BLIND ACCEPTANCE OF SOLZHENITSYN'S CRITICISMS BY "PSEUDO-

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LEFTISTS" WHO USE SUCH CRITICISM EXCLUSIVELY FOR ANTI-SOVIET POLEMICS. TO PARRY ANTI-PCI FINGER-PINTING BY ITALIAN PRESS,

UNITA' EDITORIAL ENDS NOTING CONSISTENCY WITH WHICH PCI DOCUMENTS, CONGRESS ACTIONS, ETC. HAVE HEWED TO ABOVE LINE AS EXPRESSION OF TRADITIONAL PARTY VIEWS ON STATE-CITIZEN RELATIONS IN SOCIALIST SOCIETY WHICH PCI HOPES TO BUILD IN ITALY.

2. COMMENT: UNITA EDITORIAL AND FACTUAL TREATMENT OF SOLZHENITSYN STORY SHOULD BE VIEWED NOT ONLY ON THEIR OWN MERIT BUT ALSO IN CONTEXT OF RECENT HEAVILY CRITICAL PRESS AND POLITICAL COMMENTARY, LED BY SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, ON INITIAL PCI AND UNITA' SILENCE ON FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF 1968 SOVIET ACTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. VILPE

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